

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to suicide prevention; amending s.
3 111.09, F.S.; providing and revising definitions;
4 amending s. 394.9086, F.S.; renaming the Commission on
5 Mental Health and Substance Abuse; revising the
6 purposes of the commission to include an assessment of
7 the state's suicide prevention infrastructure;
8 revising the membership and duties of the commission;
9 requiring the commission to submit annual interim
10 reports for a specified timeframe; revising the date
11 by which the commission must submit its final report;
12 extending the repeal date of the commission; providing
13 an effective date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 111.09, Florida
18 Statutes, is amended to read:

19 111.09 Peer support for first responders.—

20 (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

- 21 (a) "Affiliated first responder organization" includes,
22 but is not limited to, any of the following organizations:
23 1. Regularly organized volunteer firefighting companies or
24 associations.
25 2. Regularly organized volunteer ambulance services.

26 3. Combination fire departments, as defined in s.
 27 633.135(1).

28 ~~(b)-(a)~~ "First responder" has the same meaning as provided
 29 in s. 112.1815 and includes 911 public safety telecommunicators
 30 as defined in s. 401.465.

31 ~~(c)-(b)~~ "First responder peer" means a person who:

32 1. Is not a health care practitioner as defined in s.
 33 456.001.

34 2. Has experience working as or with a first responder,
 35 including active, volunteer, and retired first responders,
 36 regarding any physical or emotional conditions or issues
 37 associated with the first responder's employment.

38 3. Has been designated by the first responder's employing
 39 agency or affiliated first responder organization to provide
 40 peer support as provided in this section and has received
 41 training for this purpose.

42 ~~(d)-(e)~~ "Peer support" means the provision of physical,
 43 moral, or emotional support to a first responder by a first
 44 responder peer for the purpose of addressing physical or
 45 emotional conditions or other issues associated with being a
 46 first responder.

47 ~~(e)-(d)~~ "Peer support communication" means electronic,
 48 oral, or written communication, made with a mutual expectation
 49 of confidentiality while a first responder peer is providing
 50 peer support in his or her official capacity.

51 Section 2. Subsections (1) and (2), paragraph (a) of
 52 subsection (3), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), and subsections
 53 (5) and (6) of section 394.9086, Florida Statutes, are amended
 54 to read:

55 394.9086 Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use
 56 Disorder Abuse.—

57 (1) CREATION.—The Commission on Mental Health and
 58 Substance Use Disorder Abuse, a commission as defined in s.
 59 20.03(10), is created adjunct to the department. The department
 60 shall provide administrative and staff support services relating
 61 to the functions of the commission.

62 (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the commission are to
 63 examine the current methods of providing mental health and
 64 substance use disorder abuse services in the state and to
 65 improve the effectiveness of current practices, procedures,
 66 programs, and initiatives in providing such services; identify
 67 any barriers or deficiencies in the delivery of such services;
 68 assess the adequacy of the current infrastructure of Florida's
 69 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) system and other
 70 components of the state's crisis response services; and
 71 recommend changes to existing laws, rules, and policies
 72 necessary to implement the commission's recommendations.

73 (3) MEMBERSHIP; TERM LIMITS; MEETINGS.—

74 (a) The commission shall be composed of 20 ~~19~~ members as
 75 follows:

- 76 | 1. A member of the Senate, appointed by the President of
77 | the Senate.
- 78 | 2. A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by
79 | the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 80 | 3. The Secretary of Children and Families or his or her
81 | designee.
- 82 | 4. The Secretary of the Agency for Health Care
83 | Administration or his or her designee.
- 84 | 5. A person living with a mental health disorder,
85 | appointed by the President of the Senate.
- 86 | 6. A family member of a consumer of publicly funded mental
87 | health services, appointed by the President of the Senate.
- 88 | 7. A representative of the Louis de la Parte Florida
89 | Mental Health Institute within the University of South Florida,
90 | appointed by the President of the Senate.
- 91 | 8. A representative of a county school district, appointed
92 | by the President of the Senate.
- 93 | 9. A representative of mental health courts, appointed by
94 | the Governor.
- 95 | 10. A representative of a treatment facility, as defined
96 | in s. 394.455, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
97 | Representatives.
- 98 | 11. A representative of a managing entity, as defined in
99 | s. 394.9082(2), appointed by the Speaker of the House of
100 | Representatives.

101 12. A representative of a community substance use disorder
 102 ~~abuse~~ provider, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
 103 Representatives.

104 13. A psychiatrist licensed under chapter 458 or chapter
 105 459 practicing within the mental health delivery system,
 106 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

107 14. A psychologist licensed under chapter 490 practicing
 108 within the mental health delivery system, appointed by the
 109 Governor.

110 15. A mental health professional licensed under chapter
 111 491, appointed by the Governor.

112 16. An emergency room physician, appointed by the
 113 Governor.

114 17. A representative from the field of law enforcement,
 115 appointed by the Governor.

116 18. A representative from the criminal justice system,
 117 appointed by the Governor.

118 19. A representative of a child welfare agency involved in
 119 the delivery of behavioral health services, appointed by the
 120 Governor.

121 20. A representative of the Florida Alliance of
 122 Information and Referral Services, appointed by the Governor.

123 (4) DUTIES.—

124 (a) The duties of the Commission on Mental Health and
 125 Substance Use Disorder ~~Abuse~~ include the following:

126 1. Conducting a review and evaluation of the management
 127 and functioning of the existing publicly supported mental health
 128 and substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ systems and services in the
 129 department, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and all
 130 other departments which administer mental health and substance
 131 use disorder ~~abuse~~ services. Such review shall include, at a
 132 minimum, a review of current goals and objectives, current
 133 planning, services strategies, coordination management,
 134 purchasing, contracting, financing, local government funding
 135 responsibility, and accountability mechanisms.

136 2. Considering the unique needs of persons who are dually
 137 diagnosed.

138 3. Addressing access to, financing of, and scope of
 139 responsibility in the delivery of emergency behavioral health
 140 care services.

141 4. Addressing the quality and effectiveness of current
 142 mental health and substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ services delivery
 143 systems, and professional staffing and clinical structure of
 144 services, roles, and responsibilities of public and private
 145 providers, such as community mental health centers; community
 146 substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ agencies; hospitals, including
 147 emergency services departments; law enforcement agencies; and
 148 the judicial system.

149 5. Addressing priority population groups for publicly
 150 funded mental health and substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ services,

151 identifying the comprehensive mental health and substance use
 152 disorder ~~abuse~~ services delivery systems, mental health and
 153 substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ needs assessment and planning
 154 activities, and local government funding responsibilities for
 155 mental health and substance use disorder ~~abuse~~ services.

156 6. Reviewing the implementation of chapter 2020-107, Laws
 157 of Florida.

158 7. Identifying any gaps in the provision of mental health
 159 and substance use disorder services.

160 8. Providing recommendations on how behavioral health
 161 managing entities may fulfill their purpose of promoting service
 162 continuity and work with community stakeholders throughout this
 163 state in furtherance of supporting the NSPL system and other
 164 crisis response services.

165 9. Conducting an overview of the current infrastructure of
 166 the NSPL system.

167 10. Analyzing the current capacity of crisis response
 168 services available throughout this state, including services
 169 provided by mobile response teams and centralized receiving
 170 facilities. The analysis must include information on the
 171 geographic area and the total population served by each mobile
 172 response team along with the average response time to each call
 173 made to a mobile response team; the number of calls that a
 174 mobile response team was unable to respond to due to staff
 175 limitations, travel distance, or other factors; and the veteran

176 status and age groups of individuals served by mobile response
 177 teams.

178 11. Evaluating and making recommendations to improve
 179 linkages between the NSPL infrastructure and crisis response
 180 services within this state.

181 12. Identifying available mental health block grant funds
 182 that can be used to support the NSPL, Florida 211 Network, and
 183 crisis response infrastructure within this state, including any
 184 available funding through opioid settlements or through the
 185 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2; the
 186 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Pub.
 187 L. No. 116-136; or other federal legislation.

188 13. In consultation with the Agency for Health Care
 189 Administration, identifying sources of funding available through
 190 the Medicaid program specifically for crisis response services,
 191 including funding that may be available by seeking approval of a
 192 Section 1115 waiver submitted to the Centers for Medicare and
 193 Medicaid Services.

194 14.9. Making recommendations regarding the mission and
 195 objectives of state-supported mental health and substance use
 196 disorder ~~abuse~~ services and the planning, management, staffing,
 197 financing, contracting, coordination, and accountability
 198 mechanisms which will best foster the recommended mission and
 199 objectives.

200 15.10. Evaluating and making recommendations regarding the

201 establishment of a permanent, agency-level entity to manage
202 mental health, substance use disorder ~~abuse~~, and related
203 services statewide. At a minimum, the evaluation must consider
204 and describe the:

205 a. Specific duties and organizational structure proposed
206 for the entity;

207 b. Resource needs of the entity and possible sources of
208 funding;

209 c. Estimated impact on access to and quality of services;

210 d. Impact on individuals with behavioral health needs and
211 their families, both those currently served through the affected
212 systems providing behavioral health services and those in need
213 of services; and

214 e. Relation to, integration with, and impact on providers,
215 managing entities, communities, state agencies, and systems
216 which provide mental health and substance use disorder ~~abuse~~
217 services in this state. Such recommendations must ensure that
218 the ability of such other agencies and systems to carry out
219 their missions and responsibilities is not impaired.

220 16. Evaluating and making recommendations regarding
221 skills-based training that teaches participants about mental
222 health and substance use issues, including, but not limited to,
223 Mental Health First Aid models.

224 (5) REPORTS.—Beginning By January 1, 2023, and annually
225 thereafter through January 1, 2025, the commission shall submit

226 | an interim report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
227 | the House of Representatives, and the Governor containing its
228 | findings and recommendations on how to best provide and
229 | facilitate mental health and substance use disorder ~~abuse~~
230 | services in the state. The commission shall submit its final
231 | report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
232 | of Representatives, and the Governor by September 1, 2026 ~~2023~~.

233 | (6) REPEAL.—This section is repealed September 1, 2026
234 | ~~2023~~, unless saved from repeal through reenactment by the
235 | Legislature.

236 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.